

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 9-12, and 14 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 9, and 12 are independent. Claims 5 and 6 have been withdrawn for consideration. In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Arai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,527,642); and rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamimura (JP 60-191758) in view of Eda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,044,723). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Applicants are filing concurrently with this Reply, a Petition to correct inventorship together with this appropriate supporting documentation together with a claim for priority to Arai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,527,642). Based upon this claim for priority, Applicants respectfully submit that Arai et al. is not prior art but regarded the present application. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103***

As far the Examiner's rejection of claim 7, the Examiner admits that Kamimura fails to teach or suggest that worm gear arrangement being use in combination with a power steering device. Examiner relies on the teachings of Eda et al. to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of

Kamimura. The Examiner concludes it with an obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the worm gear arrangement of Kamimura in combination with a power steering device, taught by Eda et al., in order to provide a means for adjusting the biasing force and/or the engagement of the worm gears. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of these references and further disagree that one of ordinary skill in the art would be so motivated to make the purported combination.

The decelerator of Kamimura includes one end of a transmission shaft (25) of a worm (23) being connected to an operation handle (24). Rotation of the operation handle (24) by an operator is transmitted to the worm (23) via a rotation shaft (36).

In contrast, worm 71 of the present invention is connected to an electric motor and the rotation of the electric motor is transmitted to a worm shaft. The load of the operation force manually applied by an operator is significantly different, from that of the driving force by electric motor. That such, Kamimura worm type decelerator does not perform the desire function, even it is combine with the power steering apparatus of Eda. As such, Applicants maintain that the combination of the references fail to teach or suggest the worm gear arrangement being use in combination with a power steering device. Further, Applicants respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the references as disclosed by the Examiner. Finally, Applicants maintain that the combination of the references fail to perform the functionality of the claim invention. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness by failing to provide references to teach or suggest the claim invention and by further failing to provide proper motivation in combining the references.

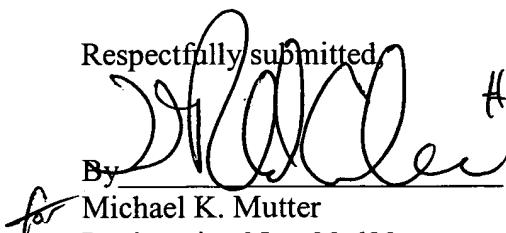
It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 14 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 7 at least based upon the dependency on claim 7. This Further respectfully submitted that claims 9 and 12 include the elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 7 and thus these claims, together with claims dependent thereon, are not obvious for the references cited by the Examiner.

**CONCLUSION**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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